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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Administration



No. 15

AMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER Wash., D.C., Apr. 18, 1942

FARMERS' TO BENEFIT FROM EXPANDED DRIED EGG PURCHASE PROGRAM. AMA is now purchasing eggs in dried form and for future delivery. Plan provides processors with opportunity to plan operations ahead of time and should stabilize egg markets on a year around basis. AMA has announced prices it will pay for dried eggs for future delivery in half-month periods through Dec. 31, 1942. The prices range from 95¢ per lb. on deliveries through May 31 to \$1.16 per lb. on deliveries in period Dec. 16 to 31, 1942. These price lists will be issued from time to time. Under present plans AMA will purchase substantial amount of futures on basis these price lists and in addition will make spot purchases of dried eggs if a cushion under market is needed. The program will allow AMA to meet its winter L-L requirements through purchases during heavy production season. Processors through selling futures can plan year around production, which should stabilize year-around markets and eliminate drastic price recessions in flush production periods. Beginning this month, all L-L shipments of eggs will be in dried form. This will mean great conservation of shipping space. Through previous purchases dried eggs for L-L, AMA in cooperation with processors, has developed a product of good keeping and good cooking quality. Eggs will be purchased from driers in barrels. Contracts have been made with packaging plants to re-pack the dried eggs in 5 oz. air and moisture proof containers. Smaller packages are expected to further popularize product with L-L consumers, and will prevent rancidity that might develop with bulk distribution.

EGG CASE CONSERVATION: There is a definite shortage of used egg cases, particularly in the Atlantic Coast States. For this reason, AMA Dairy & Poultry Branch is interested in getting the following recommendations before handlers: 1. Open cases carefully; don't break lids. 2. Use care in removing fillers; they can be used over and over. 3. Replace flaps and fillers in empty cases, or at least keep them in clean, dry place. 4. Don't drop cases; it takes time and material to repair them. 5. Make every case go one more trip. 6. Don't hoard cases; there are producers with eggs that need them. It is also suggested that farmers be encouraged to repair cases. Two or three broken cases may make a complete one. SUGGESTION: AMA WB representatives having contact with Food Industry Committees in operation of stamp plan might give them this message: "Don't Destroy Egg Cases."

COMING: PURCHASES OF DEHYDRATED MEAT. AMA purchase section has been working with meat processors and Beltsville Research Center of USDA for some time developing a dehydrated beef product to meet L-L requirements. A product in powdered form has been developed and purchases are expected to be made shortly. Not so far along is study of dehydrated pork. Initial purchase of up to \$100,000 of dehydrated beef powder is planned.

PROBLEM: Some processors selling commodities to AMA for L-L shipment are not packaging them properly. Use of improper wood in boxes and shortage of required number of wire straps are most usual faults. Misinterpretation of directions regarding wire straps on export containers is thought to be reason for latter. AMA packaging directions call for at least 5 wire straps. This means 5 wire straps in addition to, not including, the headstick wires. AMA representatives contacting processors might call this to their attention.

DIRECT PURCHASES OF DRY EDIBLE BEANS from growers, associations of growers or their agents, will be announced soon. Designed to supplement the 1941 price support program, purchases will be made on either small quantities or carlots to assist producers in non-commercial areas where there are local surpluses and proper handling, processing and marketing facilities do not exist. Purchases will be made by AMA agents on basis of maximum price \$5 per cwt. for No. 1 and \$4.85 for No. 2 pea and medium white, Great Northern and small white dry beans in bags, Eastern Seaboard basis. Price to be paid for uncleaned or otherwise not processed beans will be determined by purchasing agents on basis above grades and prices with allowance off for transportation, handling, bagging, processing, etc. CARLOT PURCHASE PROGRAM for these beans, now in effect, will be continued until June 15 with the addition of purchases of light red, dark red and western red kidney beans. Closing date of carlot purchase program was extended from May 1 to June 15 because of large quantities left in growers' hands and because of order restricting use of tin for canning dry beans. Plans are underway whereby, it is hoped expanded production of edible beans and peas will be held to areas where there are facilities for processing and handling.

BAG CONSERVATION PROGRAM is now underway. Letters have been mailed by AMA to State Commissioners of Agriculture and nat'l farm organizations calling attention to program. AAA will send details of program to WB's within week. Watch for the AAA instructions to WB's. This will be the formal WB bag conservation program and will clear up confusion that may heretofore have existed.

SOUTHERN EGG PURCHASE PROGRAM: Five new handlers have been accepted: Hartwell Ice Co., Hartwell, Ga., J. A. Ross Co., Macon, Ga., Tanner-Brice Co., Vidalia, Ga., Ritchie Grocer Co., El Dorado, Ark., and Central W. Va. Strawberry Festival Assn., Buckhannon, W. Va. Thru April 16, AMA purchased 6,182 cases under program.

AMA SURPLUS REMOVAL PROGRAMS NOW IN OPERATION: Florida - cabbage, grapefruit and orange pulp; Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana - sweetpotatoes; Arizona, grapefruit; Coming, orange purchase program in California.

AFTER THE WAR--FULL EMPLOYMENT is the name of the second in a series of pamphlets issued by the National Resources Planning Board on problems and planning in the post-war period. It suggests programs for post-war economic expansion and full employment. "Democracies, if they are going to lead the world out of chaos and insecurity, must first and foremost offer their people opportunity, employment and a rising standard of living." Copies are being sent under separate cover.

AMA REPRESENTATIVES ON USD. WAR BOARDS: Queries or needs for spot information may be sent directly to Administrator Hendrickson, AMA, Washington, D. C.